

Volunteering

The following three websites are very useful resources for organisations seeking volunteers, or for those people who would like to offer volunteer service.

Note: Expressions of interest to volunteer with The Foundation for Young Australians must be in by 8 November 2007.

VolunteerMatch
www.volunteermatch.com.au/index.shtml

Pro Bono Australia's VolunteerMatch provides a personalised service for matching skilled professional volunteers and Not for Profit organisations.

The site assists with the introduction of skilled individuals, or teams of individuals, to volunteer opportunities in the community sector where they can use their professional

skills to build capacity in Not for Profit organisations. VolunteerMatch is a free service developed by Pro Bono Australia as part of our vision to assist in resourcing Not for Profit organisations in their work. It focuses on matching professional volunteers such as lawyers, accountants, IT and marketing professionals with Not for Profit organisations.

Go Volunteer
www.govolunteer.com.au/

GoVolunteer provides free internet advertising for not-for-profit community organisations looking for volunteers.

And for those who'd like to give back to their communities by volunteering their time, GoVolunteer provides you with all the information you might need to find out about volunteering and volunteer opportunities in your area.

Ampersand
www.ampersand.org.au/

The Ampersand Network is a one-stop shop for students seeking skills development, networking opportunities and the chance to engage their passions through volunteer work.

Our databases provide you with the best volunteer positions offered by the not-for-profit sector and can help connect you with like-minded individuals and the wider global community.

The Foundation for Young Australians

The Foundation for Young Australians is seeking people, especially young people, who are interested in volunteering.

Expression of Interest forms are available at:
www.youngaustralians.org



Smart Chart

www.smartchart.org/

The interactive Smart Chart 3.0 is a free online tool for nonprofit organisations that can help you make and assess strategic decisions if you are:

- Just starting the communications planning process
- Evaluating a communications effort already in progress
- Reviewing a communications effort you've already completed

It's easy. This online version of the Smart Chart 3.0 communications planning tool makes it even easier to craft winning communications plans.

Straightforward log-in and My Charts features let you create and save multiple charts, and work on your plan(s) when it's convenient to you.

Simple evaluation techniques help you judge your decisions and keep your plan on track.

Extra planning tips and examples help you break through creative blocks.

When you are finished, you can print each completed chart, save it to your computer and modify it as you move forward. Log in any time to update existing charts or create a new one.

Facing the Hurt: Preventing Violence in Young People

When:
Friday 23 November, 9am to 12.30pm

Where:
Ella Latham Theatre,
Royal Children's Hospital

Violence in young people is common, peaking in mid to late adolescence, and has serious implications for the health and safety of our young people and community. Violence in young people is preventable.

Speakers include Prof Paul Mazerolle (Griffith University), Dr Sheryl Hemphill (Centre for Adolescent Health), Helen Butler (Centre for Adolescent



Health), Prof. John Toumbourou (Deakin University).

This is a free forum. Please register your interest early as places are limited. For further information, contact:
Rachel Smith
03 9345 4521
rachel.smith@mcri.edu.au
(Source: YACVic)



Creating Safe Environments: Violence Prevention Strategies and Programs

www.preventioninstitute.org/creatingsafeenvironments.html

This 2006 report comes from the Prevention Institute in the US. While it therefore focuses on US-based programs, many of the issues and conclusions are equally relevant to other countries and cultures. Makes for interesting reading!

This report provides an overview of promising violence prevention initiatives across the nation, with special focus on the primary prevention of violence affecting youth and adult intimate partner violence. Specific attention is given to initiatives directed at particularly vulnerable populations, including racial/ethnic groups, immigrants, low-income populations, girls and women, and others. Due to the complexity of the issue,

comprehensive approaches to the primary prevention of violence affecting youth and adult intimate partner violence are emphasized as preferable to unrelated individual programs. Making a significant impact in a community requires a cluster of effective activities at different levels (e.g., government, community, and training programs).

We describe specific programs, but also emphasize the large-scale initiatives that we feel will be more effective in responding to the scope and breadth of the problem. Further, we particularly include programs that recognize the importance of collaboration: programs that “work and play well with others.” Violence is a learned behavior. That being said, it is important to recognize not only the individual skills needed to avoid violence

and prevent violent behavior, but also the community linkages required to create comprehensive solutions. In this vein, we were particularly drawn to initiatives that include innovative elements and involve community level prevention efforts, advocacy and/or policy interventions. Further we highlight those which contribute to reframing violence prevention as a community responsibility.



Practical Development Ideas

www.nickheap.co.uk/index.asp

This site has an excellent collection of resources and ideas! They have been created/compiled by Nick Heap, a facilitator and consultant in the UK.

This site has more than two hundred free articles and resources to develop people and organisations. They are the product of thirty years work as a facilitator of change, organisation development and communication.



Practical Lessons in Marketing

<http://tinyurl.com/2ncflo>

Practical Lessons in Marketing are part of the ArtsMarketing.org website at www.artsmarketing.org

While targeted primarily for nonprofit arts organisations in the United States, the information here is also very relevant for other nonprofits as well – whether in the US or elsewhere in the world. Definitely worth a browse!

Each Practical Lesson tutorial explains a marketing skill clearly and concisely

with additional examples, exercises and worksheets to enhance the lesson.

Practical Lessons are geared towards the novice marketer, though they may also be used as refresher courses for more advanced marketers. You may take one tutorial to learn a certain skill. You may take a whole section of Practical Lessons to learn a specific marketing practice. You may also take the entire set of Practical Lessons as a step-by-step guide to the marketing planning process and how to implement your marketing plan.

Refugee Youth and Families Training

The Centre for Multicultural Youth Issues is conducting a Refugee Youth and Families Training session called ‘Juggling Expectations’ in November. The training is for workers supporting newly arrived refugee young people in the family context.

It will focus on issues around family dynamics and conflict and how this relates to culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) young people. CLD youth work frameworks and service delivery

strategies will be explored. The session will focus on ways to engage young people, their families and broader cultural communities.

For further details contact:
Rosemarie Lera
CMYI Training Coordinator
Phone: (03) 9340 3700.

(Source: CMYI, YACVic Announce)

Academy for Educational Development

www.aed.org/index.cfm

AED is a nonprofit organization working to solve critical social problems throughout the world

For example, check out the Tools and Publications page at <http://www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/>

You can also browse the site by Topic:

- Education
- Environment & Energy
- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Leadership & Democracy
- Youth

Or browse the site by Approach

- Communications
- Gender
- Partnerships
- Social Marketing & Behavior Change
- Research & Evaluation
- Technology Applications
- Training

For example, within the huge collection of available resources are:

↳ [The Untapped Opportunity: How Public-Private Partnerships Can Advance Education for All](http://www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/upload/The_Untapped_Opportunity.pdf)
www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/upload/The_Untapped_Opportunity.pdf

↳ [Qualities of Caring: Good Practices in Toddler and Infant Care](http://www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/upload/Qualities%20of%20Caring.pdf)
www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/upload/Qualities%20of%20Caring.pdf

↳ [Mentoring the Next Generation of Nonprofit Leaders: A Guide for Managers](http://www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/upload/MentoringNextGeneration.pdf)
www.aed.org/ToolsandPublications/upload/MentoringNextGeneration.pdf



7 Ways to Grow the Action Habit

www.pickthebrain.com/blog/grow-the-action-habit/

This website lists seven common-sense ways to get into the habit of taking action – of ‘getting things done’.

People at the top of every profession share one quality — they get things done. This ability supersedes intelligence, talent, and connections in determining the size of your salary and the speed of your advancement.

Despite the simplicity of this concept there is a perpetual shortage of people

who excel at getting results. The action habit — the habit of putting ideas into action now — is essential to getting things done.



Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. (Dr. Felice Leonardo Buscaglia)

Child Abuse Seminars

The Australian Childhood Foundation is offering several seminars in October and November, including:

1. Traumatized relational contexts: Supporting children and young people affected by family violence
2. Tracing traumatic loss: Considering a framework for understanding children's experiences of abuse or violence .
3. In the witness box II: Advanced court skills for professionals working with children and families.

For more information about seminars in your area, and to register for them, visit: www.childhood.org.au

If you have any queries please call (03) 9874 3922 or email training@childhood.org.au

(Source: Australian Childhood Foundation, Youth Field Xpress)

Youth Field Xpress

www.acys.info/publications/newsletter

Youth Field Xpress, which has also been promoted in previous issues of Starlink, is published by the Australian Clearing House for Youth Studies (ACYS) and edited by Anne Hugo.

As the website says: *It's a free source of topical news for youth workers, youth researchers, policy-makers and anyone with an interest in youth issues. It contains snippets of news from a wide variety of publications received at this clearinghouse, and acts as a current awareness service. It's a 'news' companion to [the ACYS] scholarly journal, Youth Studies Australia.*

If you are interested in youth issues or work in the youth arena and have not yet subscribed to Youth Field Xpress, you should certainly consider doing so. It's a great resource!



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- ... inspiring and connecting people

Send Us Your Story & Win!

In this month's issue of Starlink, Chris tells a story from his childhood, about the magic of mystery and discovery.

And in the electronic issue were links to five inspirational videos—one of which asked people to share one thing they'd learned in life, that they'd like to pass on to others.

You are invited to submit one of your own reflections—whether related to your experience of mystery and discovery, or to a 'life's lesson' you'd like to share.

Readers submitting the first two stories will receive a set of *Shadows cards* from St Luke's Innovative Resources.

The next two will receive a copy of *The Wrong Stone* by Russell Deal (also published by St Luke's Innovative Resources)

For YOUR chance to win, email your story to: starlink@bjseminars.com.au

Phantom



Reflections
CHRIS BENNETT

In 1963, Nick the Greek's milk bar was my favourite lolly shop.

Not only was it the closest milk bar from home, but Nick, a friendly, curly-haired, middle-aged man, also sold mystery packets that each contained a lolly and a Phantom comic.

All the more reason to sprint up Brunswick street to the milk bar, clutching my pocket money of a *zac* (six pence), a *thrupence* (three pennies) and a half penny. It was a fortune in those days, for an 11 year old!

I would rush into Nick's milk bar and go straight to the front window, where the mystery packets were on display. I would grab a packet and hold it towards the light to try and see if I had already bought that edition of the Phantom comic.

Nick didn't mind me doing this once or twice – but he would frown at me when I would pick up every packet and stare at it

intently, wishing I had Superman's X ray vision. I could never see which edition was in the packet, but that didn't stop me from carefully examining every one.

When I finally bought the packet, much to Nick's relief, I would quickly rush home and tear it open to see what edition I had bought. I would be ecstatic if it was a new comic. What a pleasure it was, eating a lolly and reading a new Phantom comic. If it was an edition I already had, I'd be cursing – and not even the lolly could make up for the disappointment.



The thrill of the unknown, taking a chance, and the lolly were my motivation.

If I wanted certainty I could have gone to Tony's news agency, two doors down from the milk bar, and simply bought the latest edition of the Phantom comic.

Tony, a huge man in his sixties, with a perpetual red face, would usually let me take my time checking out all the latest comics, stored in shelves against the walls. They were easy to see because they were held upright by a thin stretched band.

But somehow that just didn't measure up to the fun I had from those mystery packets at Nick's.

As we grow up we tend to lose our delight in mystery or discovery and gravitate towards certainty – only to find there is really no certainty in life.

Perhaps it is time to revisit the phantom of our youth and reconnect with the joy of mystery and discovery.

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Sometimes our light goes out, but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light. (Albert Schweitzer)